

Parish Council Minutes- preliminary: subject to approval by the attending council members
Meeting November 13, 2018

Sandy Franco convened the meeting at 7:40 pm

- I. The opening Prayer was led by Sandy Franco
- II. Quorum: Yes: Janet Nocek, Sandy Franco; Terry Thompson; Brian Wallace; Tonianne Bankoski; Katharine Hunter. Also in attendance: Fr. Paul; Sue Ferraiolo; Dana Garry
- III. The minutes of September 11th meeting were approved as submitted.
- IV. Old Business: Schedule parish council members to speak at upcoming masses. Tentatively set for January 12 and 13th
- V. Finance Committee Report – Fr Paul noted the current renovation is going well; the costs have actually been lower than expected. When Tom Belzek, the chair of the Finance Committee arrived, a financial discussion took place, see New Business
- VI. Committee Updates:
 - a. Faith Formation report by Sue Ferraiolo. The numbers of participating students: 27 for First Communion; 42 for Confirmation. Bishop Cody will confirm; 16 of the students are from St Mary's in Middletown. The 6th and 7th grade online program is successful, the children's Liturgy of the Word will be back in January, after the renovations are completed. Catechists heard from a speaker on understanding students with special needs. There was discussion regarding why the numbers are lower for Faith Formation participation. Sue reported this is true of all parishes and it was noted that the youth population is lower than in past years.
 - b. Ladies Guild no report as Anna Foreman was not able to attend.
 - c. Youth Group-Sandy reported: teens and parents are running youth group meetings and showing their strengths in doing so. The Shoe Box project has been supported by the parishioners; over 1,200 has been donated to date. Terry noted that toys that can be shared are placed in the boxes that will be sent through Christian groups to other countries. The kids made cards and decorated the boxes. Other service hours are earned through such projects as the candy canes given out. A holiday fun event is taking place.
 - d. Website Committee report no report
 - e. Rectory Committee- Brian Wallace – no report
 - f. Liturgical committee: Marilyn McGrath could not attend. She did send notes about the committee's plans that include an effort to ensure safety during parish activities.
- VII. New Business
The Finance Committee chair explained his challenges during recent years to provide a complete accurate financial report. He informed us about the diocesan finance office accounting: the office staff report that our annual collection is

subject to the diocesan tax. According to Fr Paul, Since 2012, the Diocesan Finance Office has not been persuaded to recognize that the annual collection which was formerly taken out of a separate monthly collection is for parish church capital projects such as the replacements of the roof and windows, and our current renovations. Fr. Paul has repeatedly tried to inform the Diocesan Finance Office of the capital expenses our parish has experienced and thereby show that the funds were used for capital improvements only, and therefore no percentage of those funds are owed to the diocese on any of the income from the annual parish collections and restricted gifts; he has striven to reach some agreement with those in the office but has not been successful and will continue to work to ensure a resolution. Tom Belzek conscientiously maintains the records of the parish and wishes to see a resolution of this unsettling situation, caused by the diocesan charge that over the years our parish has come to owe payments that amount to \$78,000.00. Fr. Paul will renew his efforts to resolve the discrepancy.

Fr. Paul said that there will be a financial report to the parish regarding the current renovation project.

VIII. The Closing Prayer was led by Terry Thompson

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Nocek

Approved 1-8-2019